



3651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Date: January 21, 2004

Ronald P. Sansone

) Attorney Docket No.: E-985

Serial No.: 09/818,800

) Customer No.: 00919

Filed: March 27, 2001

) Group Art Unit: 3651

Confirmation No.: 9888

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**GROUP 3600**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications or other information of which he is aware, which he believes may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1.  37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2.  37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3  Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

\*\* **Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3.  37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.  
OR

3.1.2  Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2  Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the

information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for use in charging the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)  
One copy of each of the references

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

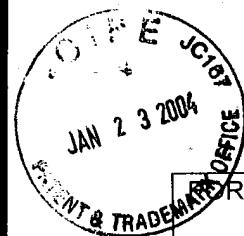
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On January 21, 2004  
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin  
Name of Rep.

Esther A. Lapin  
Signature

January 21, 2004  
Date



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)		Atty. Docket Number E-985	Serial No. 09/818,800
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Applicant Ronald P. Sansone	
		Filing Date March 27, 2001	Group 3651

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	4,037,956	July 1977	McKeen, Jr.			
AB	4,962,532	Oct., 1990	Kasiraj, et al.			
AC	5,086,300	Feb., 1992	Ashmore			
AD	5,974,449	Oct., 1999	Chang, et al.			
AE	6,047,272	Apr., 2000	Biliris, et al.			
AF	6,064,995	May, 2000	Sansone, et al.			
AG	6,289,323B1	Sept., 2001	Gordon, et al.			JAN 28 2004
AH	6,293,037B1	Sept., 2001	Spada, et al.			
AI	6,390,921B1	May, 2002	Busch, et al.			
AJ	6,542,584B1	Apr., 2003	Sherwood, et al.			
AK	2002/0165729A1	Nov 2002	Kuebert, et al.			

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### FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
AL	EP 0 375 139 A2	November 1989	•			No
AM						
AN						
AO						
AP						

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	
AS	
AT	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609;  
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next  
communication to applicant.